

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:41 AM
To: HarborComments
Subject: To grow and prosper as a 21st century city, our river needs to be clean

Dear Administrator Gina McCarthy,

Sorry to write in using a form letter, but the message is genuine. I'm a Board member of Portland's Human Access Project and also a founding member of the River Huggers swim team. I'm also a step mom, a voter, a tax payer and all the rest of it, so I have a big stake in this discussion.

I suppose I'm also engaged on this one because I travel a good deal and see that urban swimming and wildlife viewing are a part of the tourist experience for so many cities: recently, Madrid, Spain, made available their teeny, tiny but historically famous river the Manzanares. It used to be girded in highways and it's now a narrow park that stretches for kilometers. It sports splash pads and excellent bird viewing. Urban swimming is a feature of Paris, Vienna, Austin TX, Poughkeepsie...the green and greening movement for "bluespace" is more than here. Portland has so much to offer in this regard. So please count me among the vocal and excited supporters of the letter copied below.

It's really, really important that the Superfund site be revisited and revised as the Audobon Society and Willamette RiverKeepers advise. The Willamette runs through the center of our city and is a home to range of wildlife including Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Otters, Great Blue Herons, many species of fish and more. Right now, it is not safe for a healthy adult person to eat more than eight ounces of fish per month from the Willamette River Superfund area. For pregnant or nursing women, no amount of resident fish is considered safe. More cleanup means more safety. We need a plan from the EPA that relies less on Monitored Natural Recovery, and focuses on removing contaminated sediment and taking that sediment to an appropriate landfill.

I am asking you to make the following improvements:

1. EPA should select Alternative G with additional dredging in areas of high human use, areas of high ecological value, and areas where there is high risk of recontamination of the river.
2. EPA should set much clearer timelines and metrics for success including setting an explicit date by which Portland Harbor specific fish consumption advisories will be lifted.
3. EPA should select an alternative that allows all members of our community to eat fish safely from our river, including woman of childbearing age and children.
4. EPA's cleanup plan should include the heavily contaminated uplands as well as the heavily contaminated river.
5. EPA should do a much better job of addressing environmental justice issues, including reviewing and correcting significant deficiencies in its public engagement strategies for future phases of the Superfund process and delineating strategies for ensuring the jobs, economic benefits and other benefits associated with the Superfund process to the local community and particularly to underserved communities that have been impacted by contamination in Portland Harbor.
6. EPA should eliminate the confined disposal facility which would create a permanent toxic waste dump in our river.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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